#### SYNOPSIS.

The story opens during a trip of the "Overland Mail" through the Rocky mountains. "Uncle Billy" Dodge, stage driver, Alfred Vincent, a young man, and Pitineas Cadwallader, introduced. They come across the remains of a massacre. Later at Antiony's station they find the redskins flave carried their destructive work there also. Stella Anthony, daughter of Anthony, keeper of station, is introduced. Anthony has been killed. Vincent is assigned his work in unearthing plages of c.-emies of railroad, being built. Vincent visits town where railroad men are working on road and receives token of esteem from Stella. The old stage driver decides to work close to town in order that he may be able to keep fatherly watch over the young woman. She is engaged as a tutor for Viola Bernard, daughter of hotel landlady. Vincent visits society circles of ensures of the Central Pacific railroad and learns their socrets. He reairns to Stella, each showing signs of fove for the other. Phineas Cadwallader, puthing a railroad opnosing Central Pacific, reaches mining town. She writes to Alfred Vincent his beast, Plying his attentions Cadwallader insults her and she is rescued by Gideon, lier father's servant. In turn he proposes marriage, is rejected, leaves her declaring he will return the sort of a man she will love. Vincent "shows up" San Francisco and Washoe road and is praised by governor and heads of Central Pacific, Resing known as agent of C. P. he decides to retire to position of a brakeman for a short time. Stella hears from her lover, Gideon, and of his phenomenal success. Finds letter of importance involving plans of opposition road.

#### CHAPTER X .- Continued.

"Some deviltry to our company. Say! You know everything; maybe you can figure it out. And say! Mum's the word. I ain't supposed to let any one see what goes over the wire, you know. So long." He handed her a bulky envelope and turned.

'Is it all this?" Stella began, when Alvin broke in:

"Oh, my work's in there, too. Say, Miss Stella, you're a bully teacher! My brains are growing so fast my skull aches. I must skip or my chief'll call me before I get back, and that'll mean-" He drew his finger across his throat, laughed merrily and almost closed the door when he turned back a sheepish face and in a voice to match said: "There's a note to Vi in there; would you-would you-

Stella laughed. "Oh, yes, I will; but I'll tell her mother, too." "Ye-s, I s'pose that goes, O. K.

too. Good-bye. I'm gone." Stella heard him stumping off down the street, watched him through the dim light climb the muddy hill to the little box where he was jailed with the "clicker" 24 hours a day, save the three-sometimes only two-short respites the chief operator in Sacramento gave him for meals. Stella thought of the eerie nights, thought of Alvin's social nature and sighed. No wonder his predecessor had been discharged for drunkenness. But Alvin was made of better stuff.

To-night the budget went unopened. Stella extracted the note addressed to Vialo, carried the rest to her homemade desk in grandma'am's room and went to supper.

But Yic Wah's best efforts were unappreciated. She toyed with her food, listening tensely for a herald of the stage and was gladdened at last by the shout that announced its coming.

Doors were flung open and anxiou eyes peered into darkness, watching a black object embody itself from the night and labor up to the lamp-lit express office. Stella saw a rigid form on the box and ran down the sidewalk to learn for herself if it was really Uncle Billy. He did not move; only a feeble voice testified to life.

"Some one take the lines, I-I cain't open-my fingehs," he said, as kind hands held hot whisky to his lips. "Don't mind me yet." The words came thickly between swallows. "Take the scantily comprehending the import of po' fellehs out from where they stand, won't you? Boys, you all take holdthose hosses played a lone hand-don't make 'em pull the ole-wagon up that muddy hill-to-night Po' Snorteh! stormy trip. It's good-bye for him-I reckon, He's

His words dwindled to a whisper, and the huddled figure, relaxed from the long strain, drooped lower and lower.

"Boys, he'll fall! Some o' you lift him down!" called Sally B. sharply. "He keerful! Don't straighten his fin-

gers too quick!" "And some of you bear me also to my downy couch, won't you? I, too, am a frozen wayfarer, Sally B."

Phineas climbed out of the coach and stepped up to Sally B, with proffered "Oh, you git!" she said, half vexed,

though she laughed. "Why didn't you set on the box an' spell Uncle Billy with the lines, you skunk? You are younger'n him." "I ain't driving Charley Crocker's

stage. I'm his passenger.

B. hustled him aside Sally cleared the way for the men who carried Uncle Billy, protesting feebly, to her best chamber, where the two women took him in charge.

But their ministrations and the sight of Stella's pitying face, roused him for a minute only; he was soon in the vision-laden spaces where tricksies make jest of human travail. For long hours, under a wearying conglomcration of angles and curves that grandma'am called a "dream of the night," poor Uncle Billy tossed and moaned, fought over again his lonely buttle with the storm.

"Keep it up a little longeh, boys Lights ahead-no. lights out! The mountain's falling! Po Snorteh, down again! Git up, boy! up, there! Now, altogetheh! Uncle Billy must stick-by the stage, live-or die-save the treasure-don't Stella, dear! The old man ain't wo'th a teah from-yo' sweet-good-bye, fit-

tle one. Uncle Billy cain't go any-" Stella's tears fell unheeded on the stiff blistered hands while the story of the awful drive grew out of his minute I heard the signature I smelt fevered babblings. Towards morning a mice." he was quieter. Stella declared sho could not rest, but Sally B. drove her

to her room; and nature and youth soon prevailed. She awoke late in the morning, depressed by a dread her rest had not banished. Her first thought was of Uncle Billy; her next was of Phineas; and from him her mind flew to the strange dispatch. She dressed hastily and ran downstairs, attacking it at once. Fruitlessly she searched for a clew, some pre science of its importance holding her to the task heedless of breakfast and of Uncle Billy. Suddenly the significance of the paper she had picked up on the hillside after her encounter with Phineas flashed upon her. She found it and began her work anew, re-

station.

warded at last by a message that whitened her cheek, unsteaded her hand. Waiting for neither breakfast

> CHAPTER XI. Tracked.

"Yes; but it's several days old." nor wraps, she flew up the hill to the "No matter! Find out quick what dock the 'Flora' leaves, then get to your key. We must beat lightning to-The two were silent, Alvin nervous

paper, Al?"

him.

their own skins."

sengers. C. P. 2 & 4."

wire's been tapped."

"How do you know that?"

but paid no attention to it."

"It's a state's prison offense.

Alvin saw Stella coming and sprang by turning the paper, Alfred scratching to the door. "Heard the news?" he dispatches. Evidently the "Flora" was

P. Q. undertakes the job for

price we offered. No mistake. Timed

for the straits. Don't let her take pas-

"Good heavens!" Alfred cried, drop-

ping into a chair by the desk and

reaching for slip and pencil. "This is

Friday, and-" He took out his watch.

Nine-five! Got a San Francisco

the two men, oppressed with tacir death-laden secret, watched the clock "Those initials are ours."

feverishly "Sure, they're Cad's, too, backward. The minutes dragged as intolerably That's why he uses 'em, so anything for Alfred, though he wore his mask crooked he does will be charged to more easily than Alvin. Would they be in time? Would they catch the us." Alvin grinned, but was quickly serious again. "There's worse—the little steamer before she left port for her fate? Even then, would they find the infamous secret before its fateful "Cause I asked every operator clear moment arrived? What would it be? down the line from Virginia if he Powder? A slit in the hull? A cunheard any Choctaw going through, and

ning injury to the boiler? not one clicker east of here had it. At last San Francisco called. Alvin At Sacramento the night man heard it, sprang to the key. The steamer had started, had been halled, had waited for a small boat and the message, and "Oh, yes; but Cad won't go to prishad gone on her way.

You'll see! How'll they catch Alfred rose, as stiff with the tension him? And, anyway, the fellers he's working for in San Francisco 'Il save as if minutes had been hours. "That's all we can do at that end. Keep your They'll have to, if they save eye and ear busier than your tongue, Al, for the rest of the day. I'm off to Alfred was heedless. He was readsettle with his nibs, Phineas Cading the second dispatch, "A. C. & O., San Francisco. To be called for. wailader. By the way, couldn't you contrive some way to get him left? Everything fixed. 'Flora' leaves Fri-The train reported late in leaving, day at ten, with five hundred tons

Alvin wodded, "Guess I can think up that trick in four hours."

At the hotel Alfred took only time to ion riding boots and to find Stella for a hurried word. "Get Sally B, to hold Cadwallader here over train time, if it's possible," Alfred said before his good-bye. "It may mean everything to the company. I'll return to-night if I can."

A swift horse took him to the 'Front," where he found the superintendent riding his beat. Alfred told his story briefly and asked if there

Inquiry discovered an intelligent man who had worked on the line. His climbers were at camp near by; and Mr. Gregory's resourcefulness provided horse and saddle. The two men set off without delay. They rode fast till within nearly five miles of Dutch Flat, Alfred judging that, since Phineas took the stage there, his exploit must be in that neighborhood.

take it west from here."

"You bet! Any chump could tell, if he see it close, that it was the work of an amachure by the way the wires

escent of burnished gold. Lying half imbedded in the wet remains of a snowdrift, its upper surface washed clean and shining, he found a cuff button of a peculiar design-a star within a crescent, the two free points tipped with diamonds. He knew it, he knew who owned its fellow! Turning it over he saw the engraved initials. P. C.

The man chose to turn back. Alfred arranged for payment for the extra

later he was reading the reply:

"C.'s here, pacing the platform like a mad gobbler. We did the leaving trick for the regular train O. K. But

back; and immediately sent a message to the sheriff at Auburn that was answered after two hours as follows: "Sheriff's office, Auburn. P. C. walked into my arms as unsuspecting as a lamb. He had no time to destroy incriminating evidence. Is now resting noisily in the cooler."

(TO BE CONTINUED.)



Alfred's Eye Was Caught by the Gleam of a Crescent of Burnished Gold

shouted before she could speak. "Vir- | not a regular boat; her name was no ginia & Truckee railroad's a go this in the shipping lists. time, sure. No sardines behind it, like before, but men; money, too. They'll build from Virginia to Reno, and we'll meet 'em there. It'll help us like

sixty!" All this was poured out impetuously as she came toward him, her mind his words, though a mental flashlight told her that the complexion of the roads would make forever unnecessary such drives as Uncle Billy's latest

"Oh, Alvin," she panted; "that cipher dispatch-it means-it means death! What shall we do? If the chief knew you showed it to me-

"No matter what happens to me Tell me, quick, what's in it!" "But I mustn't get you discharged

Alvin." She had the woman's mind that delays, protects, conserves; and she hesitated. But Alvin had the masculine cour

age that destroys boldly to build again boldly. "The discharge of one or more two-bit operators don't count 'longside of this matter. Mr. Vincent's due on the extra in a minute. He's O. K. for company's inside business if he is only a brakeman."

"Every minute's precious," Stella "What if the train's late? If Mr. Vincent is not-" A whistle in-

terrupted her. "There she is!" Alvin exclaimed, turning toward the rock promontory that hid the train, though the rever berating whistle sounded from across

the gorge. "I'll start back," Stella said, "It Mr. Vincent's not aboard-they may have transferred him-wave to me when I come in sight under the hill."

The train puffed in. Alvin gave dispatch and translation to Alfred with a whispered explanation, and Stella saw no hand wave from the doorway. It needed little time for him to read and verify Stella's solution. He took the shorter of the two messages first. D. B., San Francisco. To be called for. Buy G. & C. at any price, contiguous lodes if possible. Big strike Secret yet. C. P. 2 & 4."

Alfred scowled. "Secret information for favored buyers. When did you get

"Wednesday morning before day Hight." "What were you up to at that time

in the morning?" "Nothing. The stuff waked me going through, it was so queer. The

What do you mean?"

"We'll have to send the message on trust then. Quick, Al! Tell the operator down there it means life or death to officers and crew-this message does. Tell him to put a man on a horse-I'll stand the expenseanything to get word to the 'Flora' in time! Oh, sign my name. It won't you, perhaps." do to have the company show up in this."

Alvin bent over his key. Men came and went, Alvin holding off trainmen and "commercial" messages alike with the decisive words, "company's business." He looked up at last, breathing freer as he spoke. "They'll do it." he whispered to Alfred. "They know where the 'Flora' lies. They have 20 minutes to catch her.'

Alfred sent a second message to th company's office in Sacramento telling of Alvin's discovery and asking relief from his train for the day. A third dispatch went to the county sheriff. telling him of the wire tapping and of the evidence against Cadwallader.

While waiting for replies Alfred wrote to Gov. Stanford, inclosing the cipher dispatches and their translations. But this was soon done, and

false report, something like that?"

was a lineman on the force.

"Jupiter! You can't track that man. Vincent! The snow's come and cone since that Hecate's job was done." "But, Mr. Gregory, he'd have to cut the wire, and he'd have to climb a tree or a pole to do it. Could that he done without leaving a trace?" "What then? How can you prove i

was he?" "How'll I know I couldn't prove it unless I try?"

"Linemen don't show up often in my diggings. I'll ask Bennett; his section begins here."

The afternoon was past its half

when they began to inspect each pole and wire-touched tree with close scrutiny. "We'll work east over these five miles to Dutch Flat." Alfred sald. 'If we find nothing we'll have to stay over night in town, go east a short distance in the morning, and then

For the first two or three miles their search was unrewarded by any sign. Just at sunset, in a windy little caught a peculiar piecing of the wire, and he climbed nimbly to inspect it. It was not a joining made by the regular force, but a recent cut. The "Is there anything about it to distinguish it from regular work?" Al-

are tied.'

"Good enough!" he called. "We need no more evidence. You can go on to town for the night, or back to camp, as you choose. I'll ride too hard for

work and again rode east.

In a few minutes he arrived at the Dutch Flat office and telegraphed Alvin, asking of Phineas. Five minutes

he thinks he's going on the special in spite of fate." "Let him go in peace," Alfred wired

# LAND STATE OF THE Do Hornets Stand Guard

Have Sentinels.

Is a hornet's nest guarded by sen inels, after the manner of ant hills! It is not so easy to decide, for their private habits do not invite familiar approach. But some experiments seemed to point that way. No noises, however near or strident, had the least effect upon the workers. Blow on divers instruments as loudly and shrilly as I would, they poured in and out of the gate or labored on the walls, intent wholly upon their own affairs. But at the slightest jar upon the win dow or shutter, out flew a bevy of irate insects and flung themselves against the wire window screen with an angry "bump" that showed how good was their intention, at least, to defend their home. It was always so;

a squad of workers, free and ready for

aggressive duty, seemed to be lurking

near the gate, prompt to sally forth

upon alarm. Even at night a few kept

nearby, and although their port had

sleepy watchmen, as doubtless they Experiments Seem to Show that They were, they left upon the observer the impression that they were on sentinel serivce, in which the community was never lacking.-Harper's Magazine.

> Advice to a Young Man. "What do you say to a young lady at a dance?" queried the youth who was about to attend his first ball. "Oh," replied the society man, "talk to her about her beauty.' "But suppose she hasn't any?" said

the youth. "In that case," rejoined the s. m. 'talk to her about the ugliness of the other girls present."

Prolonged Duties.

"I would like to see the sheriff," announced the visitor in the county courthouse

"He's out," replied one of the clerks. "When do you expect him back?" asked the visitor. "I don't think he will be back for a

week at least," answered the clerk. "A watch factory failed, and he's winding up its affairs."-Harper's lost its victous swing and they moved "'C. P. 2 & 4' is Blowhard Cad's sig- about with a sluggish pace, like Weekly.

## KEEP THE SPARKS FLYING



# TRADE UNIONISM Its Methods and Its Goal.

THE trade union enables the fair em- to secure reduced hours of labor to cure his cheapest help for. Not only Neill. that, but it is a protection for the merchant. It enables the trade unionist to live as becomes an American citivale, the lineman's practised eye zen, and has a powerful influence in procuring fair compensation for the individual whose conscience will not permit him to join any combination in this free (?) competitive age. Again, ing-house for the employer. It is convenient to send there for additional

help. The trade union is not flawless by "How did the man get up many of its deficiencies. The gains advanced. That is worth while. of the industrial situation. The trade outgrowth of present-day conditions.

## erenere.

Aim of the Future

WHAT has been accomplished? The history of the labor movemen during the last quarter of a century parallels in action and results the noblest of all permanent organizations, that grandest of human achievements, our republic, the United States of America. It has, by the unselfish, honest, energetic effort of her leaders; the stability and fundamental rightcousness of her cause, destroyed the barriers of ignorance and disdain, the injustice of prejudiced critics, and has

its principles. What has the future in store? If the for the future-and I know of no better guide than the lamp of experience -the results to be accomplished cannot but accord and merit a proper position in the progress and prosperity of our country, and be the factor for the preservation of the rights and achievements of the past; when the nental organization of labor. impartial verdict of the great events is rendered, the shape of its efforts weighed in the balance will be no mean proportion of the whole.

Determination of public issues in the referendum of public opinion is the aim of the future,-Peter W. Collins, President of the Boston Central Labor Union.

# MANNE.

Work Is to Uplift

DERHAPS the greater thing accomplished by the labor union since the first Labor day is the conversion of millions of persons to trade union principles. There is to-day less apathy and more activity among unionists than ever before. Perhaps the greatest thing accomplished is the increased morals of the whole body of unionists; perhaps it is a knowledge of increased power and responsibility.

The greatest economic thing accomplished has been the reduction of the hours of labor to millions of persons, enriching and lengthening the life of unionists and benefiting the community.

The next step will be upon historic lines, a closer solidarity of union with union, increased wisdom in management, increased loyalty to principles, increase in the revenue of the unions, increase in membership, power, intelligence, sobriety and devotion.

They should strive, and will strive, Labor.

ployer-who, like the fair unionist, other craftsmen, to uplift the lowest predominates-to estimate his labor paid, and to bring the unorganized of well regulated trade unionism. on a living basis. This system is a under the protecting shield of a trades good deal preferable to figuring on union affiliated with the American what his unfair competitor can pro- Federation of Labor.—George E. Mc

#### KKKK

What Has Been Done WHAT are the reforms that union labor is addressing itself to in labor is addressing itself to in its effort to reach the good time coming, and what means are being emmarks of the climbers were also fresh. the union headquarters act as a clear ployed? In the first place it should be noted we have come a long way already. The hours of labor have been reduced from sunrise and sunset to ten and then to eight hours; Chinese any means. It is a good deal easier immigration has been stopped, as alto tear down than to build up, but the so the importation of contract labor; latter course applied with intelligence the sweatshop has been eliminated in That was something gained, but not to the labor movement will overcome large measure and wages have been are greater than the losses. While the have undertaken to abolish child la-Before the man could reply Alfred's dominant trait of human nature is bor and will not cease until it is aceye was caught by the gleam of a selfishness, just so long will we find complished and the child sent to both sides endeavoring to get the best school. These are some of the things we are working to accomplish. We union has come to stay. It is a natural wish to secure the initiative and referendum and we are diligently at work in every state to that end. The work is progressing excellently. The ini-

## HHHH

tiative and referendum once secured it

will form an effective means toward

World Movement

other reforms.

THE jurisdiction of the American ■ Federation of Labor extends over North America, including Canada, Canada is well organized, especially Ontario, Quebec and the maritime prov inces. A union card is good where in these places. Indeed, the union card of England is accepted made the great mass of the people be- here. England is very well unionized Hevers in the sincerity and stability of and they have a congress there that is organized on lines similar to the American Federation. Two delegates history of the past acts as the guide attend the annual convention of the American Federation of Labor and the most important. The strong unions two delegates from the latter attend their annual meeting. Germany, France, Austria and Russia are well organized, but there is no central body there. They will be sertain. however, to follow the example that ideals of a free and enlightened peo- they see works to such advantage with ple. When the future records the us, and I look to see an interconti

## KKKK

Its Wisdom Shown

THE growth of organized labor in the I United States is shown by the great increase in the membership of the American Federation of Labor, the most powerful body of wage-workers in the country, if not in the world. Organized labor is stronger in America than ever before. The cry for the open shop and the heated denuncia tions of the opponents of the boycott. the closed shop and the sympathetic strike is met on every hand by examples of the wisdom of collective bar gaining on the part of workingmen when dealing with their employers and the continuance of union shops by cooler headed employers.

## HHHHH

The Greatest Need

CANNOT name the greatest achievement of the unions since the first Labor day, but two that I consider the greatest are the measures against child labor and the accomplishment of the eight-hour day,

Unions should in the future strive most for general adoption of the eighthour day, for it means the advance of other workingmen's questions.-Francis J. Clarke, President of Massachusetts Branch, American Federation of

# A Song of Labor

A dream is on the people, A light, not flame light, falls Upon great broken faces, These ruined human walls, And at the master moment Beyond, the soul breaks sod. And angels in the heart's core Sing gioriously of God.

In deeds that make men brothers, In acts that give or These deathins are hidden
That sweep us to the goal.
But we, as gods, are dreamers,
And we, as angely, dream.
We little spes with visions That are not what we seem

#### ---

O heart of Man, what glories Have never come to pass, the dream that never wakened, The love that never was-The good, the great, the labor-O save the ways half-trod Our lives flow on corrupted Into the life of God.

#### \*\*\*

Our grief is too, too wild, If hearts of tender mothers Are broken on a child.

O what might be that anguish
In God, who sees unfurled
Mun's evils, for lifs creature
Is child of all the world!

O draggled souls, O demons, O human sharks and snakes, Free fight of savage devils, O heast that in us wakes, We, drunk with reeming power, Have shaken the firm earth Until her heart is rotten And lost to love and mirth.

## But One has seen our wildness

And over us is shed
Dreums, that lead forth our labor
Ghosts, that divulge our dead,
A pity, that is saving,
The tears that make us pure,
And love, that in great hours
To God shall make us sure. \*\*\*

Yea, what shall bring the morning Of dreams that rush in deed. The Workshop thronged with Workmen Handling the living need? O sweat of brow scarce-purposed

# In a never dreamed of quest! hearts that never tire! O hands that never rest!

Trade Agreement

THE greatest thing accomplished by trade and labor unions since the first Labor day, in my opinion, is the settled conviction that the toilers of our country can best conserve their industrial interests by the application

The great trade associations of our country have been to the commerce of North America, through the application of the trade agreement with its pacific purposes, what the Declaration of Independence was to the body politic in these United States. It also provides for the logical settlement by conference or arbitration of disputes which heretofore were only settled by the cold-blooded logic of force. The discipline and effectiveness of trade unionism, and, as a result, the operation of the collective bargain or trade agreement, is the greatest thing accomplished by trade associations since the first Labor day.

What is the next step for the unions? The next step for those who have not already taken it is to make thorough preparation and arrangement for the full introduction of the eight-hour work-day in all industrial and agricultural pursuits. Given more leisure from the drudgery of toll, the working man or woman will seek and secure opportunity for the mental betterment which will make them happier men and women, better citizens, more clever, prompt and alert producers; it will cause them to look for better conditions of life, all of which are enpobling and will tend to the supremacy of the nation which gives the best opportunities along this line.-James Duncan, Secretary-Treasurer of the Granite Cutters' International Association of America.

# Greater Equity

THE eight-hour day is the greatest achievement of unionism, but the original intention was not that men should make over-time, but that more men should be employed.

In the making of contracts for construction work on buildings, etc., employers figuring on the cost of labor usually consider the wage question as numerically generally succeed in obtaining about as high wages as they demand. This does not leave a large amount of money to be distributed in wages by the sub-contractors on the job, who have to figure pretty closely in order to come out ahead financially The result is that the smaller and weaker unions cannot obtain as high wages as their fellow-workers in the larger unions, who were provided for

first. In my opinion, one of the most important things to be accomplished by the labor unions is to establish a more equitable distribution of wages to all workmen employed on contract work. with due consideration to the contractor.-Jeremiah J. Donovan, President Boston Building Trades Council,

#### Child Sufferers THE child labor in America should

I fill us with shame and pity. There are 1,700,000 boys and girls in the United States under 16, earning their own bread. Of these 80,000, mostly girls, are employed in the textile mills. Thousands of children, many of them not more than six or seven years of age, are working 12 hours a day; multitudes of them through the long hours of the night. These children live an average of but four years after they buter the damp, dusty, noisy mills. And all this in our rich, free, great America. These little martyrs toil for a pittance to swell the dividends of the stockholders who live in ease and luxury. Not even heathen nations have the burdens of life upon the little children. Only in Christian nations do we throw these innocent, helpless children into the factories to grind them up body and soul into dividends and dollars. -Exchange.